(2) 5% in the second year but not exceeding Rs. 8,830 per metric tonne.

(d) and (e) The Government takes a view on the matter of imposing safeguard duty after following certain laid down procedures and considering the interests of the domestic industry, the importers as well as user industry. The Standing Board on Safeguard has decided to impose a safeguard duty on the item acetylene black, after considering the matter from all possible angles.

Protests lodged by China

2327. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has lodged protest over imposition of anti-dumping duties on its exports by India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government has received representations from Industry representatives of the People's Republic of China protesting imposition of anti-dumping duties recommended on imports of mctal-lurigical coke originating in or exported from China.

Anti-dumping duties are imposed on the basis of the recommendations of the Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tarrif Act and the Rules made thereunder. The procedure followed by the Designated Authority for recommending anti-dumping duties is quasi-judicial in nature. Due opportunities arc provided to all interested parties, including the exporters from the subject countries, to defend their interests. Moreover, the orders passed by the the Designated Authority are appellablc before the Central Excise & Gold Control (Appellate) Tribunal.

Patenting of Basmati Rice

2328. SHRI D1PANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some producers in the United States have been able to secure the patent for basmati rice outside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the date from which the patent has been validated and the name of the country wherein this has happened;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue with the W.T.O.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay thereon, if any; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) A patent under the title "Basmati Rice Lines and grains" has been granted to Rice Tec. Inc. Alvin Texas on 2.9.97 by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, The United States of America. Government has no knowledge of the patent having been obtained in any other country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are of commercial interest to India and which in our views do not satisfy the criteria of patentability, steps arc taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged. After sufficcnt material is gathered, a challenge petition is filed for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patent in that country.